


REMARKS

Claims 1-13, 16-18, 20-23, 26, and 29-32 are pending. Claims 11 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Claims 1-10, 16-18, 20-23, and 29-32 are allowed. Claims 12-13, 15, and 28 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 11 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Balachandran et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,115,394). Claim 15 depends directly from independent claim 11. Claim 11 is amended to include the limitations of claim 15. Claim 15 is cancelled without prejudice. Claim 28 depends directly from independent claim 26. Claim 26 is amended to include the limitations of claim 28. Claim 28 is cancelled without prejudice. Thus, claims 11 and 26 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Balachandran et al.

Applicants believe the present amendment places the instant application in a condition for allowance. In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-13, 16-18, 20-23, 26, and 29-32. If the Examiner finds any issue that is unresolved, please call applicants' attorney by dialing the telephone number printed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert N. Rountree
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 39,347

Robert N. Rountree, LLC
70360 Highway 69
Cotopaxi, CO 81223
Phone/Fax: (719) 783-0990